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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Conversion of Soviet Tank
Factories to Tractors

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1. The conversion of Soviet tank factories to the production of tractors has been a two-stage operation. During the first period, 1947 to 1949, obsolete or damaged tank factories in Kuibyshev, Kharkov, Moscow, Tbilisi, and Stalingrad were merely closed down, and the repair shop sections were converted to serving tractor production, which production never took place. Much confusion resulted, and A. A. Andreyev, who was in charge, was replaced by M. Z. Saburov.
2. Saburov directed the second phase of the conversion, which began in 1953 and is not yet complete. There have been protests from the Red Army, supported by Molotov, as a result of which conversion was carried out under strict directives. Factories originally built to produce tanks are not to be converted to tractor production at any time. Factories built to produce tractors, but converted to tanks in 1939 to 1945, are to be returned to tractor production; but every factory thus returned to tractor production must first be replaced by a new factory, built to produce tanks.
3. Under these directives Saburov succeeded in the autumn of 1953 in setting up so many new tank factories that practically all the old tractor factories could be returned to tractor production by 1954. Saburov's success in this task gained him promotion to Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.
4. It is to be noted that the production of tanks has not in any way been decreased by the conversions. At the same time the new tank factories are so modern that the tanks produced are qualitatively much better than previously. It is expected that there will be a considerable quantitative increase in 1954.

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